Taylor Cheese awarded Dairy 30x20 Processor Grant

Release Date: June 24, 2014

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WEYAUWEGA, WISCONSIN – Taylor Cheese of Weyauwega will receive a Grow Wisconsin Dairy 30x20 Grant for dairy processors, Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) Secretary Ben Brancel announced today.

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"This new program will help dairy processors explore new technologies and resolve regulatory issues in order to ensure a demand for quality Wisconsin milk," Brancel said. "Processors will be able to reach new markets and position themselves for long-term success."

The Grow Wisconsin Dairy 30x20 Processor Grant is intended to facilitate operational changes, improve profitability and foster innovation in the dairy industry. This grant can be customized to meet the needs of individual processors and can be used to hire consultants to address specific business needs such as product research or staff development. Recipients must match 20 percent of the total award.

Taylor Cheese, a cut-and-wrap facility at 508 N. Mill St., Weyauwega, will use its grant to upgrade food-quality audit requirements that are becoming preferred by many customers. The company also plans to become certified as an organic food processor. These two changes will help the company grow its markets in ways that will allow for better margins and more profitability, which could lead to an increase in jobs. Combined with a 5,000-square-foot expansion and modernization completed in 2010, these upgrades will position Taylor Cheese to support Wisconsin's dairy industry into the future.

"This new grant program for processors like us, and a similar grant program for dairy farmers in our state, will stimulate growth at Taylor Cheese and help dairy farmers make more fresh milk for our state cheese factories," said Taylor Cheese co-owner Robert Ehrenberg. "Wisconsin state government is a real partner in growing Wisconsin's dairy industry."

These new Grow Wisconsin Dairy 30x20 Processor Grants were implemented in the current state budget as a way to support profitability and efficiency in Wisconsin's dairy industry. This initiative is designed to work with the Grow Wisconsin Dairy 30x20 Producer Grants that Gov. Scott Walker announced in 2012.

To learn more about the Grow Wisconsin Dairy 30x20 program, call 855-WIDAIRY (855-943-2479) or email growwisconsindairy@wi.gov. Online, go to http://datcp.wi.gov/Business/Business_Resources.